



ANG

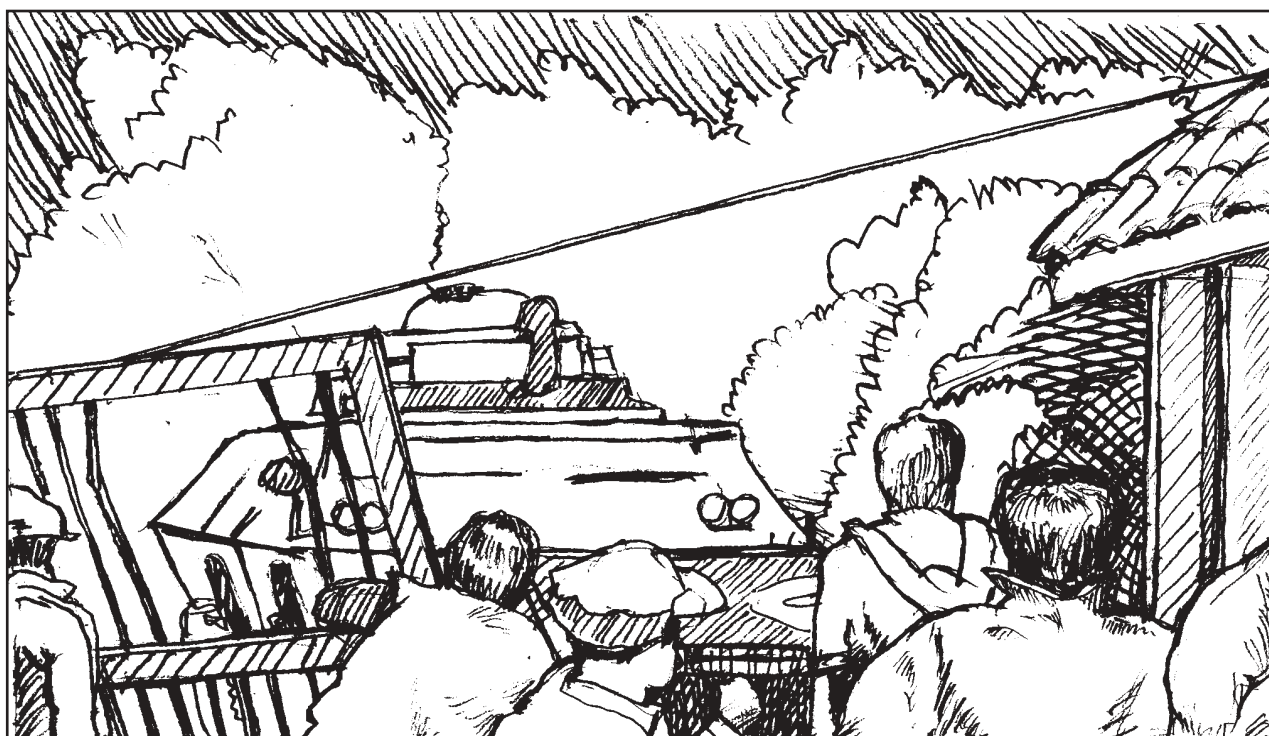
Bayan

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

English Edition
Vol. XXXV No. 22
November 21, 2004
www.philippinerevolution.org

Editorial

Direct class anger towards the revolutionary overthrow of the ruling classes and the entire ruling system



For several decades now, the workers, peasants and farm workers of Hacienda Luisita and Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) have been raging in anger due to the oppression and

exploitation they have suffered in the hands of the big landlord and comprador-big bourgeois Cojuangco clan.

Intense class anger burns in the hearts of the

***This issue's
highlights...***

**Cry at Hacienda
Luisita**

PAGE 3

KM's 40th anniversary

PAGES 5-8

**Ka Roger's open letter
to soldiers and police-
men** PAGE 9

victims of the terrible massacre in Hacienda Luisita. Their cries for justice reach out to the heavens over the fascist troops' merciless shooting of the strike and demonstration launched by workers and farm workers of Central Azucarera de Tarlac and the massacre of up to 14 peasants and farm workers on November 16.

Hacienda Luisita paints a portrait of undeniable injustice. While the Cojuangco family lives in a stately mansion and could indulge its every whim, the workers and farm workers who cultivate and enrich the land live in cramped hovels and endure measly wages. With the continued land-use conversion inside the hacienda, they are not even sure that the tiny lots where their shacks are set up would remain in their possession.

Peping Cojuangco's horses who live in air-conditioned stables lead far more comfortable lives. In fact, the shampoo used to bathe these horses cost a lot more than the ₱9.50 daily take-home pay of farm workers in the hacienda.

This is the despicable situation that the Cojuangcos sought to maintain when they concocted the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme in 1987. The SDO was designed to take advantage of loopholes in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) which was initiated by the reactionary regime of Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino, one of Hacienda Luisita's owners. Through this scheme, the hacienda would no longer be subject to land reform. The CARL, already watered-down and bogus, was further diluted and rendered ludicrous by a scheme to distribute worthless stocks to peasants and make them appear as co-owners of the hacienda.

Back then, it was already clear how the state defended the class rule of big landlords and the


comprador-big bourgeoisie. The massacre at Luisita has bared this even more, with the state flagrantly using its armed forces to inflict violence and crush the just actions of peasants and farm workers in the hacienda. Prior to this, the state was ever quick to scuttle the strike at the hacienda through an order from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). It was tantamount to ordering the workers to surrender their struggle and blindly follow whatever the Cojuangcos wanted.

The massacre at Luisita has once again proven that the exploitative ruling classes of big landlords and comprador-big bourgeoisie will never relinquish their power and privilege of their own accord; that the state and its minions are mere instruments of the ruling classes and not friends but enemies of the working class and peasantry; and, that barefaced violence is the state and ruling classes' response to a people who would no longer be deceived.

With its use of counter-revolutionary armed violence, the reactionary state directly provokes the people to advance and intensify their armed revolutionary resistance.

The class hatred that seethes in the hearts of peasants and farm workers not only in Hacienda Luisita but across the archipelago must be directed at the revolutionary overthrow of their class enemies and the entire ruling system.

The class hatred that seethes in the hearts of peasants and farm workers not only in Hacienda Luisita but across the archipelago must be directed at the revolutionary overthrow of the entire ruling system.

| | |
|--|----|
|  Vol. XXXV No. 22 November 21, 2004 | |
| <i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions. | |
| It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at: | |
| www.philippinerevolution.org . | |
| <i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at: | |
| angbayan@yahoo.com | |
| Contents | |
| Editorial | |
| Overthrow class enemies and the entire ruling system | 1 |
| Cry at Hacienda Luisita | 3 |
| Correspondence reports | |
| Tarlac defensive turned to tactical victory | 4 |
| KM anniversary | |
| 40 years of KM | 5 |
| Lessons, gains in building KM chapters | 6 |
| Open letter to soldiers and policemen | 9 |
| 10-point call to action | 9 |
| Response to crisis: Revolution and socialist construction | 10 |
| News | |
| | 12 |
| <i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines | |

We will not retreat!

We will not retreat just because some of us were killed! Justice for the martyrs of Hacienda Luisita! Junk the stock distribution option (SDO), land to the tillers!

These were the cries of the workers, peasants and farm workers of Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) on November 18 as they bore the coffins of the Hacienda Luisita massacre victims in a funeral procession.

Their cries for justice for the massacre's 14 victims who included two children aged 2 and 5, reached out to the heavens. From Tarlac City's main thoroughfare marched 3,000 workers, peasants, the victims' relatives and members of militant organizations as well as the Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela party-list groups. They marched towards the gates of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) in Barangay San Vicente before proceeding to the CAT sugar central gate to reclaim their picket line.

Strike at CAT

The Hacienda Luisita massacre was a desperate attempt to break the workers' strike led by the CAT Labor Union (CATLU) and the United Luisita Workers' Union (ULWU) that began on November 6.

The CAT workers had just demands—a wage hike for mill and farm workers, the reinstatement of ULWU's 327 members and officials illegally terminated this November, the junking of the deceptive stock distribution option scheme and the implementation of genuine land reform. CAT workers receive rates that are even lower than the minimum wage.

Negotiations collapsed between the workers and management because the Cojuangcos refused to heed the workers' demands. Thus the workers' solid determination to go on with their strike.

The Cojuangcos were desperate to break up the strike in the face of the ₱5 million daily loss of revenue resulting from the stoppage or slowdown of operations. Policemen, soldiers and the Cojuangcos' paid goons attacked the workers'

picket line four times since the strike began.

On November 10, at the Cojuangcos' request, the Arroyo regime through the Department of Labor and Employment issued an order to stop the strike.

Massacre in Hacienda Luisita

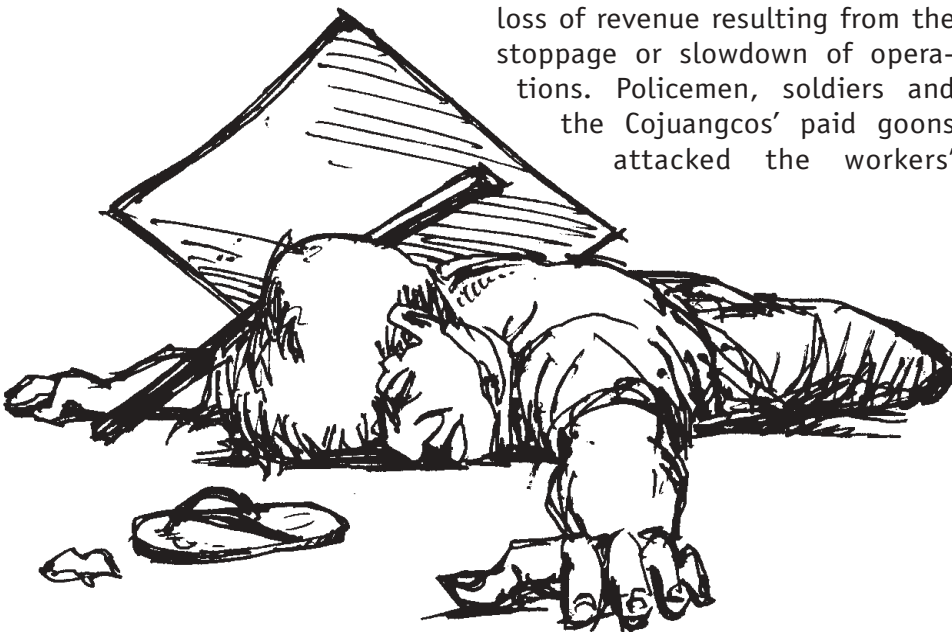
By November 16, up to 1,000 armed policemen and soldiers, two armored personnel carriers (APC) and several fire trucks assaulted the barricade set up by 6,000 workers, farm workers and their supporters in the Central Azucarera de Tarlac compound at around 3:30 p.m.

The two APCs were used to destroy Gate 1 of the CAT sugar central. However, the strikers and the demonstrators were able to stand their ground. Through their cries and by marching with their arms linked, they drove back the attackers.

The fascist police and soldiers lobbed teargas grenades and bombarded the workers with water cannons and were able to seize control of the gates. To gain back control of the picket line, the workers reorganized and marched anew. The soldiers and policemen then mercilessly fired upon the unarmed workers to break not only the strike but the workers' will to stand their ground.

The workers reported the presence of snipers positioned atop the roof of the factory and along the sugarcane fields. Seven strikers and demonstrators were immediately felled. A day after, the number of dead totaled 14, and may rise in the coming days due to the huge number of strikers who were seriously wounded.

The policemen and soldiers pursued the protesters all the way to the farm workers' shacks inside



the plantation.

Up to 200 people are currently being treated in various hospitals around the city. Some strikers have also been reported missing.

Up to 111 strikers and their supporters, including two minors were arrested and detained at Camp Macabulos, San Vicente, Tarlac. Authorities had the audacity to charge them with assault, illegal assembly, sedition and public disturbance.

The number of detainees is likely to increase since military operations have not yet ended, according to Bayan Muna-Tarlac. The military's saturation drives continue in the barangays of Mortico and La Paz where men are being dragged out of their houses and lined up to be arrested.

Arroyo regime feigns innocence in face of people's condemnation

The Filipino people strongly condemn the Hacienda Luisita Massacre. Various sectors have expressed their overwhelming anger against the Cojuangco-Arroyo collusion.

Even as they grieved, thousands of people marched in Tarlac. Successive demonstrations have also taken place in front of the Cojuangcos' offices in Makati and hacienda co-owner and former Philippine president Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino's house.

In an attempt to wash their bloodied hands and diminish their responsibility for the Hacienda Luisita Massacre, the Cojuangco family, Malacañang, the Department of Labor, the PNP and the AFP are all weaving lies to make it appear that the demonstrators were armed and were intent at starting trouble. They are maliciously spreading the lie that fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) joined the demonstration to incite the workers.

They want to make it appear that the thousands of demonstrators from various provinces who went to Tarlac to lend their support for the CAT workers' strike had sinister motives.

But their schemes to deny responsibility for the massacre will be for nought. It is as clear as day who snuffed the lives of the workers and who ordered them to do so.

The Filipino people will hold them accountable and make them pay dearly. **AB**



NPA in Tarlac turns defensive battle to tactical victory

Red fighters under the Nelson Mesina Command of the New People's Army (NPA) prevailed in a defensive battle in Sitio Umangan, Barangay Balite, Pura, Tarlac that took place from the night of October 10 to October 11. This is in spite of

a brigade-size force of Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force and Philippine National Police troops that cordoned off and combed the eight-hectare sugarcane

field where the NPA had taken cover. The enemy dropped bombs from helicopters; used tanks, machine guns and two sniffing dogs on the Red fighters, but the latter were still able to elude them.

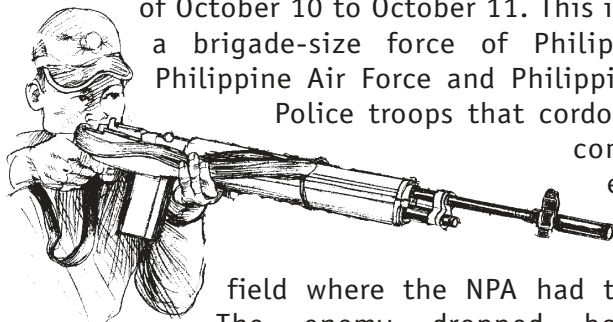
Not a single Red fighter was killed, wounded or captured during this large-scale operation. On the other hand, 14 were killed and many were wounded among the ranks of the reactionary enemy.

The guerrillas skillfully used the relatively small sugarcane field to defend and maneuver themselves. As soon as the first volley of gunfire erupted, three Scout Ranger troops were felled. Because of the early collapse of enemy morale, the NPA was quickly able to seize the initiative. After 30 minutes, the commander of the assaulting Scout Rangers was likewise hit and killed, causing the military's fighting spirit and capacity to decline even further.

By nightfall, the NPA was able to retreat towards their guerrilla base, using as additional cover the strong downpour to slip through the enemy cordon. On the other hand, the reactionary state's paid troops merely sought cover from the rain.

Meanwhile, residents of Pura and surrounding areas were angered no end when soldiers and policemen forced them to evacuate, illegally entered and ransacked their homes, stole their food and dropped bombs on and damaged the sugarcane field. **AB**

(Based on an article from Himagsik, the revolutionary mass paper in Central Luzon)



The youth continuously invigorate the Party and the revolutionary movement

The ranks of the youth are an ever-abundant wellspring of the Communist Party and the Filipino people's revolutionary movement. Every day, new activists and communists emerge, ready to offer their talents, time, sweat and blood to serve the people.

Because the youth continue to join the revolutionary movement, the Communist Party is

assured of being energetic, dynamic, strong and vibrant.

Thus, the CPP is elated and expresses its solidarity with the revolutionary youth as the 40th anniversary of the Kabataang Makabayan draws near. This issue of Ang Bayan focuses its sights on KM's victories in organizing and mobilizing the Filipino youth along the path of armed revolution.

40 years of Kabataang Makabayan

On November 30, Kabataang Makabayan (KM) will be celebrating its 40th anniversary even as it faces the challenge of waging struggle against the burdens being imposed on the youth and the people.

According to KM spokesperson Comrade Andres Guerrero II, "The invigoration and propagation of political education is a most important task of all of KM's leaders and members. Amid the crisis, it is more than ever

necessary to comprehend the prevailing system and how to respond to the crisis that besets it."

The KM was founded in 1964 at the YMCA Auditorium in Manila as a national-democratic youth organization. Its first members were student, worker, peasant, urban poor and professional youth.

After the congress, many local KM chapters were established in various schools in Manila-Rizal, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon.

These chapters served as the basis for KM's strategic expansion and consolidation in the countryside. KM members also helped form militant unions.

From 1965-1966, it launched campaigns and mass actions against US imperialism, the Marcos regime and the sufferings wrought by these forces on the people. Struggles against the rotten educational system erupted. The student protest movement spread throughout the

country in 1968-69. Many organizations united with KM in struggling for school reforms. KM members were among the first to volunteer for the New People's Army (NPA) in 1969 and persevere in advancing armed struggle.

From January to March 1970, KM led successive and ever-bigger demonstrations. Tens of thousands of youth and their progressive organizations joined what came to be known as the First Quarter Storm (FQS).

After the imposition



of martial law in September 1972, KM's legal national structure was disbanded. Its leaders and members were systematically assigned to the countryside to conduct mass work among the peasantry and become NPA Red fighters. Many KM activists helped in and led the establishment of guerrilla fronts in various provinces nationwide.

Operating underground, the KM persevered in organizing and propaganda work in the cities, especially in Metro Manila. In 1977, KM's clandestine national structure was reestablished.

In the 1980s, Kabataang Makabayan, along with the rest of the revolutionary movement, deviated from the correct line. It was mired in reformism on the one hand, and committed insurrectionary actions on the other. KM dropped its recognition of the Communist Party's leadership from its constitution during its fourth congress. The organization weakened.

When the Party launched the Second Great Rectification Movement, both the revolutionary youth and student movement and the KM warmly responded. Studies of the basic documents were launched and KM firmly abided by the call to conduct rectification. Its membership expanded once more. KM was once again able to assign activists to the countryside and a significant number of cadres and organizers to the revolutionary workers' movement. KM chapters are already being established in schools and communities. The Kabataang Makabayan is now in a position to further strengthen and expand its organization. AB

Lessons and gains in establishing Kabataang Makabayan chapters



One of the Party's most noteworthy gains in its efforts to strengthen the Kabataang Makabayan (KM) and further invigorate the underground revolutionary youth movement in the cities is the establishment and strengthening of KM chapters in Metro Manila. This is especially significant in the face of the intense hardships

Continued in "Lessons..." page 7

The Kabataang Makabayan formally inaugurated the month-long celebration of its 40th anniversary through a night of cultural performances.

During the inauguration, KM laid out its particular tasks and projects with regard to the celebration, such as a "red letter campaign" (distributing postcards encouraging mem-

bers and other youth to join the Red army) and a "red box campaign" (gathering ammunition, clothes, medicine and other material support for the NPA).

Similar inaugurations were likewise held in various areas. In these gatherings, members of KM chapters viewed revolutionary and progressive docu-

mentaries and movies, presented cultural performances and shared experiences as well as their personal histories, recounting their growth as revolutionaries.

In the spirit of celebrating the anniversary, KM members painted revolutionary slogans along the main streets of Metro Manila last October. AB

being inflicted by the US-Arroyo regime on the youth and the need to wage all-out resistance to such impositions.

Since 2003, the Party has persevered in intensifying organizing work among the youth and establishing organizations in schools and nearby communities. This is to rectify the past error of having relinquished the task of forming underground youth organizations and the ensuing reduction in the number of activists from which the Party could recruit members or elements to assist it in carrying out its revolutionary work.

Party cadres in charge of the youth sector assiduously conducted a review of the previous summing-up of the revolutionary youth-student movement. They studied "Our Urgent Tasks" once more, and drew lessons from the Party's experience in worker organizing. From this, they drafted a guide on how to organize the KM step-by-step among students and community youth.



Establishing KM-AB

The KM Andres Bonifacio Chapter (KM-AB) currently consists of several hundred members in two chapters at the college level and another two in the community. It operates in a public university and several score urban poor communities.

The KM-AB achieved such gains in a span of two years. As a whole, its success could be attributed to the following factors: 1) firm unity on the need, orientation and tasks of the KM chapter; 2) collective monitoring and detailed assessment of the process of organizing and running chapters step-by-step; and 3) thoroughly and creatively carrying out tasks and duties at every level.

A network of underground cells set up after KM organizing was abandoned in 1997 formed the basis for setting up a KM chapter in the university in April 2003 when KM chapter building was once more addressed. After several months, two chapters at the college level were established. KM conducted assessments and study sessions, elected its officials and drafted plans. In the following months, its organization expanded like a prairie fire, with five additional chapters established in other colleges and nearby communities. The KM members also helped establish chapters of MAKIBAKA, the revolutionary women's organization, and KASAMA (Katiipunan ng mga Samahang Manggagawa), the revolutionary organization of the semi-proletariat.

The chapter continued to conduct education work and collectively addressed and resolved issues and prob-

lems that emerged. Within a few months, several of its members decided to join the New People's Army (NPA). Others are expected to follow.

After a year, the KM-AB assessed its work and adopted resolutions, among them uniting on terminologies (defining the KM organizing group as the KM Collective [KMC] in accordance with "Our Urgent Tasks"), forming the KMC as the revolutionary core of open mass organizations, setting up chapters in every college and systematizing the deployment of its members, as well as systematizing revolutionary work in urban poor communities simultaneous with carrying out revolutionary tasks within the university. In the first six months of 2004, KM-AB was able to surpass its rate of growth for the whole of 2003.

As one of the KM chapters that has conducted organizing work in a community, KM-AB made a detailed study of its methods and style of work. It established open mass organizations, launched mass struggles and protest actions, and witnessed the organization's rapid expansion. This November 2004, KM-AB celebrates the establishment of yet another chapter in a major community within its area of operations.

KM in the community

Another university-based KM chapter has likewise succeeded in setting up a chapter in a large urban poor community in Metro Manila, where the youth come from worker, semi-proletarian and peasant families displaced from the countryside in the 1970s and 1980s. Because of the high cost of education, many of these youth could not afford to go to school and end up getting

involved in antisocial activities—peddling and using illegal drugs, engaging in robbery and prostitution and joining gangs, among others.

The KM activists were quickly able to reach out to the youth in the community by establishing contact with their gangs and other organizations. In linking with the youth, the activists focused discussions on burning issues close to the youth and people, including the lack of education, oil price hikes and unemployment.

They formed a legal organization. But it was not easy to consolidate its members. The main challenge lay in convincing them to turn their backs on antisocial activities. The activists devoted long periods to encouraging the members to change their outlook and habits gradually.

Some youth in the process of remolding themselves expressed support for the revolutionary movement. The advanced members who persevered in remolding themselves were recruited into the KM.

Because of the KM's revo-

lutionary perseverance, the youth were weaned away from engaging in antisocial activities. Gangs that used to fight each other now tread a common path and unite on the basis of the youth and people's democratic aspirations.

At present, the chapter has over 300 active members. A growing number are ready to go to the countryside and eventually join the NPA. Others are being assiduously trained to lead KM organizing work within and outside their communities.

KM and KASAMA

KM has likewise been able to help set up chapters of other underground revolutionary mass organizations due to its perseverance in the conduct of its revolutionary tasks. A fine result was the establishment of a KASAMA chapter in a community. A number of KM members, mainly from schools, began conducting revolutionary work in that particular community in 2001. KM collectives were set up inside various organizations, with a KM chapter later established in the area. Not long after, KM took on the task of establishing the

KASAMA in the community.

KM conducted its organizing work among 500 vendors (200 within the constructed market where stall rent is expensive, and 300 sidewalk vendors). Most of them are poor folk who earn very little from vending.

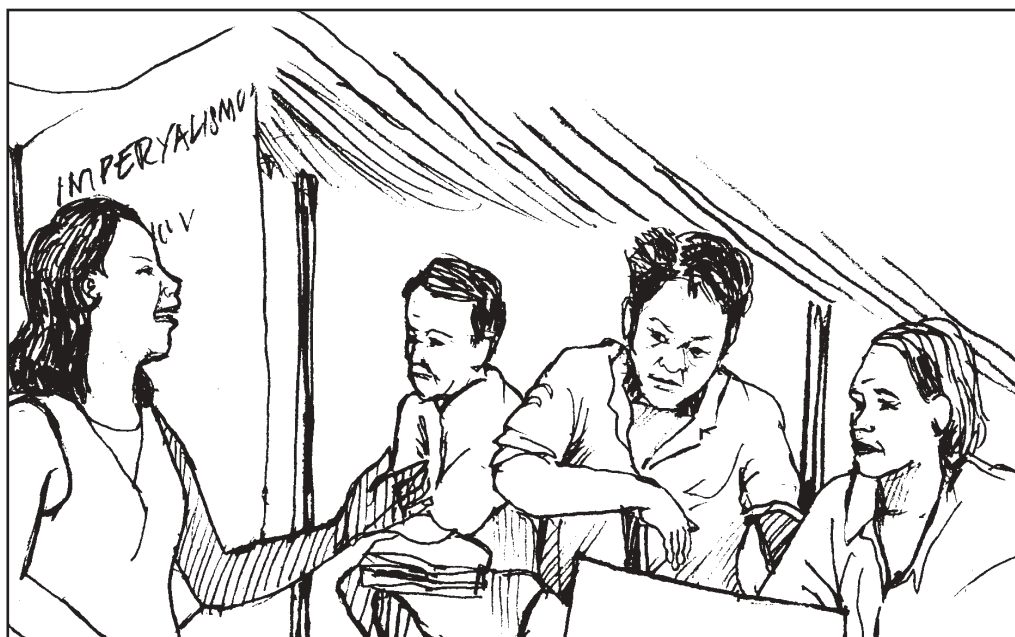
It was June 2004 when KM started recruiting vendors to become KASAMA members. With the local campaign against the wanton arrests by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) gaining ground, the vendors' militancy was roused and raised to a higher level. It became easy to recruit KASAMA members from among the most politicized vendors.

To strengthen the clandestine organization, the KM ensures that education work is vibrant within KASAMA. Activists go from stall to stall to thoroughly explain issues to the masses and inquire about their problems and their views. They have become flexible in setting the time for study sessions, consultations and meetings.

Because of the vendors' heavy work burden, it is difficult to find enough time to hold long study sessions. They overcome this by dividing long courses into shorter ones. Through this method, the KASAMA members were able to complete the Short Course on Philippine Society and Revolution.

The vendors, meanwhile, provide support in various ways to the KM chapter. For example, it has become customary for them to provide KM members with vegetables, fish and meat from their stalls as support for the revolutionary activists in carrying out their tasks.

AB

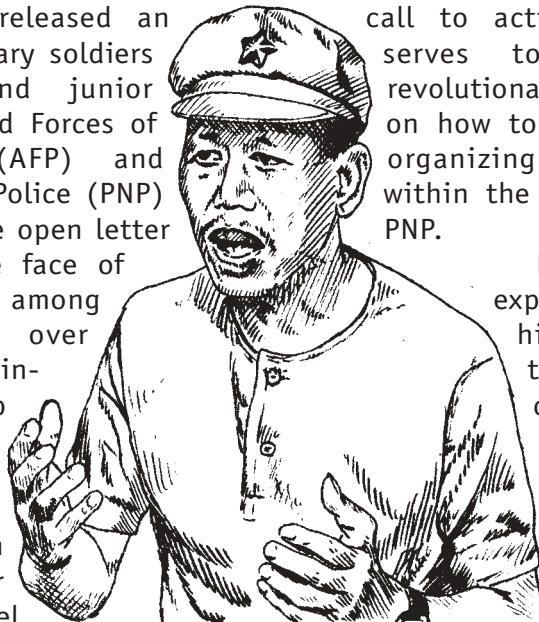


Ka Roger's open letter to soldiers and police personnel propagated

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal once again released an open letter to ordinary soldiers and policemen and junior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) on November 13. The open letter was released in the face of widespread disgust among ordinary soldiers over corruption scandals involving the AFP's top generals.

Enclosed with the letter of Ka Roger was the "Ten points of action for the armed personnel

of the reactionary state to advance their welfare and the people's interests." The call to action also serves to guide revolutionary forces on how to conduct organizing work within the AFP and PNP.



Ka Roger explained in his letter that corruption "is the biggest reason behind the

many hardships and oppression being experienced" by ordinary soldiers and policemen. He cited, among others, the delayed wages, slashed benefits, lack of decent housing, the lack, and the poor quality of, equipment, expired medicines administered to wounded and sick soldiers, and pension funds being pocketed as but a few of the results of corruption.

Ka Roger belied claims by some officers that the present corruption scandal will result in a cleansing of the "rust corroding the AFP." He said that this will not happen because "the rust is at the very core of the military..."

Continued in "Open..." page 10

Ten points of action for the armed personnel of the reactionary state

- 1** Form clandestine and open organizations within the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP). Unite on the basis of common grievances against the oppression of top military and police generals.
- 2** Take action to defend the democratic rights and welfare of ordinary soldiers and police personnel, including the right to just wages, pensions, efficient health services and housing, among others. Expose and oppose corruption.
- 3** Deepen your understanding of the AFP's situation and that of the entire military organization. Study the history of the AFP as an instrument organized by US imperialism in order to suppress the struggle of the Filipino people.
- 4** Unite with the struggle of the Filipino people. Support the people's struggle against corruption, militarism and foreign intervention.
- 5** Study the national-democratic program of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the program of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).
- 6** Disobey your superior officers' illegal and antipeople orders. Daringly expose and oppose human rights violations.
- 7** Block military operations against the people and the revolutionary forces. Oppose orders that call on you to march blindly into war.
- 8** Abandon the reactionary AFP and live as ordinary civilians.
- 9** Clandestinely maintain links with the revolutionary movement. Advance the Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Movement within the AFP and PNP.
- 10** Join the revolutionary movement. In the final analysis, your problems are linked with those of the Filipino people and will only be resolved decisively through revolutionary change.

AB

Response to the economic crisis: Revolution and socialist construction

(Second part)

Let us now present certain aspects of Chinese economy and society from 1949 to 1976 that feature the great strides made under the banner of socialism. They clearly show the victories achieved in various fields after the backward semicolonial and semifeudal system was ended.

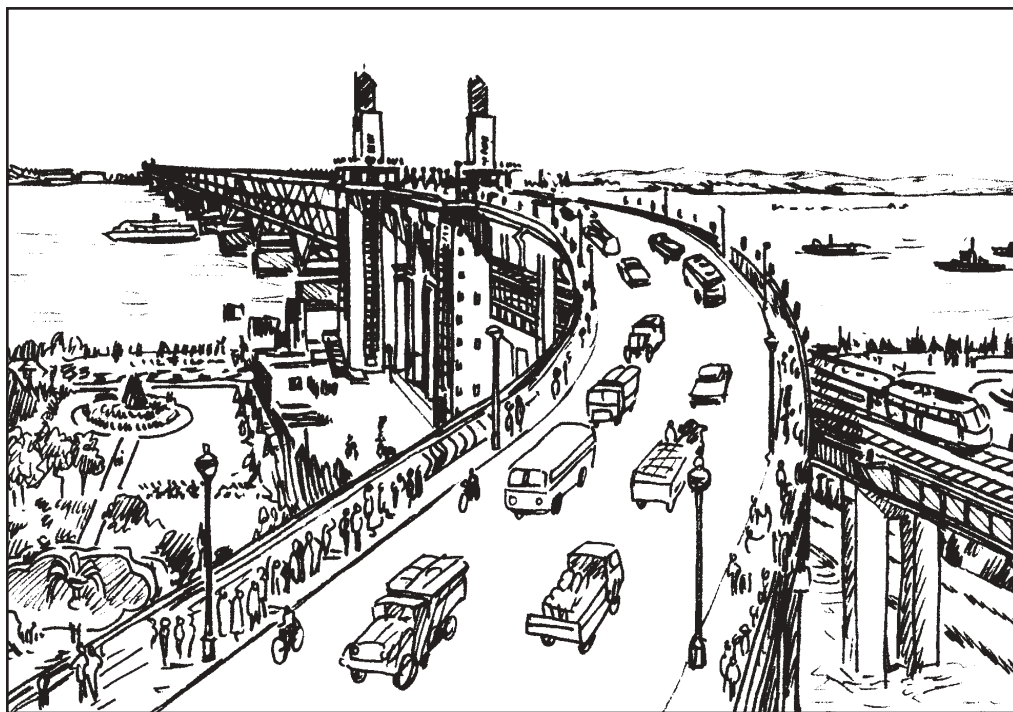
Transportation. Semicolonial

and semifeudal China suffered from backward transportation and communication systems. The railways and roads were inadequate to reach various parts of the extensive country. By 1949, more than half of all railways and roads could hardly be used because they were in ruin. The transportation system in rivers and seas was also quite

limited. There was hardly any air transportation system. Even some cities did not have airports.

With the establishment of the people's democratic government, the Chinese people rapidly repaired the railways. By 1973, the total length of railways was already several times that of what the reactionaries had left behind in 1949. They traversed hundreds of tall mountains and crossed wide rivers. They connected provinces and regions that had previous been unconnected, including northwest and southeast China, which were hitherto cut off from the country's other centers.

Until 1949, not a single bridge spanned the Yangzi River, a 5,800-kilometer stretch that nearly divides the whole of China from the mountains in the northeast to the southeast. At the close of 1973, the Yangzi was spanned by four large bridges. Meanwhile, 10 railways and over 20 bridges spanned the Yellow River where



Bridge over Yangzi River Continued in "Response..." page 11

"Open..." from page 9

and because corruption in the military is but part of the thoroughly rotten system that it defends and is ruled by big bureaucrat capitalist kleptocrats."

Ka Roger however said that even if ordinary soldiers and policemen are part of the

machinery that primarily defends the rotten and oppressive ruling system, they themselves are also oppressed and made to suffer.

It is but just, says Ka Roger, for military and police personnel to take action to demand redress for their grievances, but admonished them to be "creative" in carrying out their protest actions since the expression of

grievances within the AFP and PNP would be violently suppressed. He encouraged them to link up and cooperate with the revolutionary forces in their respective localities or even within their camps to advance their interests within the AFP and PNP and help in advancing the interests of the Filipino people. AB

previously only two railways crossed it.

Even bigger successes were achieved in the construction of highways. By the end of 1973, the total length of road was nine times bigger compared to that before revolutionary victory in 1949. The highways reached the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, among the highest places in the entire world. The Sichuan-Tibetan Highway is almost 2,000 kilometers long, tunnels through 14 mountains, crosses ten large rivers, and winds through slopes and ravines. Because of the establishment of these highways, the Tibetan people and other nationalities forged closer relations with other parts of China.

Since 1949, the types of aircraft used in China have multiplied several times. Airports were established even in the Tibetan Plateau, and regular flights scheduled to this area. Routes of domestic flights in 1973 reflected a sixfold increase compared to the figure in the first year after victory.

From nothing, the Chinese people began to produce trains. The production of large trains and modern freight and passenger coaches had become extensive by the 1960s. The construction of large ships, like the 10,000-ton ocean liner, was also begun in 1959. By 1957, from nothing, China began to produce small- and medium-sized airplanes.

The development of modern transportation in China was attendant to the development of industrial and agricultural production. The need to transport goods grew. Likewise, together with the development of the people's livelihood came the

Stable prices in socialist China
(yuan per kilo)

| | 1965 | 1974 |
|-----------------|-------|------|
| <i>Pork</i> | 2.00 | 1.80 |
| <i>Beef</i> | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| <i>Chicken</i> | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| <i>Fish</i> | 0.86 | 0.80 |
| <i>Eggs</i> | 2.08 | 1.80 |
| <i>Cabbage</i> | 0.058 | 0.05 |
| <i>Potatoes</i> | 0.24 | 0.20 |

growth in the number of passengers.

Finance. Like the present bankrupt Philippine government, the reactionary Guomindang government was always short of funds. Its finances depended on taxing the people, constant mendicancy to imperialism and printing money. The prices of goods rose and the value of money plummeted without letup.

With the establishment of the people's government, it immediately junked onerous taxes and various charges that were a burden to the people. Imperialist financial control was ended, bureaucrat-capitalist financial institutions brought under control and private banks subjected to socialist planning. A new currency was issued and a new socialist financial system established.

The principle of "developing the economy and ensuring supply" was upheld. Together with rapidly developing production, China was able to accumulate funds continuously from socialist enterprises. Through central planning of the economy, state funds were balanced, and a surplus accumulated.

Bonds issued by the government beginning in 1950 to accumulate the necessary funds needed at the onset were all

redeemed in full by 1968. Loans from the Soviet Union were all paid for by 1965. By 1973, China was a debt-free country.

The value of the currency was strong. For two decades, the prices of the people's basic needs remained stable. (See table above) Because of the enhancement of supply, the prices of manufactured goods, such as fertilizer, machinery and medicine, among others slowly went down.

Under socialist China, no income taxes were imposed on workers. State funds came from socialist enterprises controlled by the state. The latter allocated funds in accordance with the objective of rapidly carrying out socialist construction—ensuring large funds for irrigation projects and the mechanization of agriculture. There were also support funds for people's communes and production brigades that were experiencing difficulty.

At the same time, the state allocated funds for education, public health, science and culture. Funds were likewise allocated for workers' insurance and welfare and to improve the people's livelihood. The state also allocated funds for areas where minority peoples live in order to meet their special needs.

AB



12 enemy troops killed in battles with NPA this November

TWELVE enemy troops were killed in six separate armed actions by the New People's Army (NPA) in various parts of the archipelago from November 10 to 14. Meanwhile, six soldiers were also wounded in these battles.

In Davao Oriental, Red fighters killed three elements of the PNP 1105th Provincial Mobile Group in a raid on its detachment in Barangay Baculin, Baganga on November 13. The policemen were part of a five-man team patrolling near the detachment when the raid was launched. Two M16s were seized from the raid.

In Davao del Norte, two Philippine Army soldiers were killed and one wounded in an NPA ambush on their unit in Talaingod town on November 14.

In Zambales, two policemen who were among PNP Special Action Force elements conducting operations were killed by NPA snipers in Barangay Pangolingan, Palauig on November 13.

In Kalinga, a soldier from the 21st IB Charlie Coy was killed and another wounded in an NPA ambush in Barangay Gamalan, Gawaan on November 13.

In Abra, four elements from the 41st IB and PNP were killed and two were wounded when an NPA squad ambushed a platoon-size enemy force in Barangay Nagaparan, Danglas on November 12. The soldiers had planned to ambush the NPA unit but the guerrillas beat them to it.

Prior to this, three soldiers from the 4th Scout Ranger Coy were wounded in a firefight with guerrillas of the Pulang Bagani Command in Sitio Tagbon, Barangay Candiis, Laac, Compostela Valley on November 10. Among those wounded was Capt. Lito Maramba, commanding officer of the enemy unit conducting a military operation.



Transport strike paralyzes Central Luzon

TRANSPORTATION was paralyzed in four provinces and five cities in Central Luzon when 110,000 jeepney and tricycle drivers led by the Pinag-isang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide successfully launched a transport strike on November 8 to demand the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law.

Ninety percent of jeepneys and tricycles did not ply their routes in Pampanga, especially in Angeles City and San Fernando. Meanwhile, 98% of transportation was paralyzed in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija, and San Ildefonso and Malolos in Bulacan. In Tarlac City and 17 towns of the province, 90% of the 2,000 jeepneys and minibuses did not ply their routes.

ILPS holds second assembly

THE INTERNATIONAL League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) successfully held its second international assembly from November 11 to 13 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. It was attended by 240 delegates representing 136 organizations from 33 countries.

Lively and open discussions and debates took place regarding the assembly's forthcoming General Declaration. The declaration was passed without objection, and the assembly unanimously agreed that a higher level of unity was achieved through debate.

CPP pays tribute to Arafat

THE COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines (CPP) offered its condolences to the Palestinian people with the passing of Yasser Arafat, Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) chair and president of Palestine.

Party spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said that for four decades, Arafat worked hard to unite the people of Palestine under the PLO, participated in their guerrilla war, represented and defended the aspirations of the Palestinians in the field of international diplomacy, and served as a symbol and inspiration of the Palestinian people's militant struggle to liberate themselves from US and Israeli occupation and oppression.

With the escalation of their struggle, Ka Roger continued, the Palestinian people will draw inspiration from Arafat and the memory of thousands of Palestinian martyrs who valiantly fought to achieve their dream of liberating their homeland.

Arafat died on November 11 in a hospital in Paris, France at the age of 75.